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**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

# Results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries

## Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the survey to support the review of the standard rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries (A/72/728). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 13 February 2018.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/261, approved the conclusions and recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group, as summarized in section IV of its report on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues (A/C.5/67/10, annex). Subsequently, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the results of the revised survey to establish the standard rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries (A/68/813). In its resolution 68/281, the Assembly decided to establish a single rate of reimbursement to countries contributing contingent personnel to United Nations field operations as from 1 July 2014, with progressive increases to take effect as from July 2016 and July 2017).

3. The Advisory Committee further recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/261, also approved the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Group that, once a new base has been approved, there should be a full review, with data gathered from a newly selected sample, every four years (A/C.5/67/10, annex, para. 110). Pursuant to that resolution, the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/728) contains the results of the quadrennial review of the common and essential additional personnel costs incurred by contributing countries in deploying their forces to United Nations peacekeeping missions, using June 2017 as the base month. Table 2 in the report of the Secretary-General provides a summary of the average per person

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monthly costs from the 10 sample countries[1] for each of the five cost categories.[2] Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the methodology, which had been recommended by the Group and approved by the Assembly in its resolution 67/261, had been followed throughout the review process.

4. Based on the 2017/18 review, the weighted average across all five cost categories and reflecting the proportionate size of the individual contributions of the sample countries amounts to $1,427.80 per person per month (A/72/728, para. 25), a difference of $17.80 compared with the current rate of $1,410 per person per month as from 1 July 2017 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/281. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, based on the deployment levels as at 31 December 2017 and assuming that the approved rate was paid in full to all uniformed personnel deployed, the potential financial implications of an increase of $1 to the current rate of reimbursement would amount to $1,032,660 per annum, equating to an estimated total of $18,381,348 per annum for a difference of $17.80.

5. In addition to the five mandated categories of costs, information on other costs incurred by the sample countries is listed in sections IV and V of the report of the Secretary-General. The weighted average of two such additional costs is presented in the report as follows: (a) issuance of passports (weighted average is $2.72 per person per month); and (b) medical examinations for deploying female uniformed personnel (weighted average is $1.27 per person per month) (A/72/728, paras. 53 and 59 (c)). In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that, of the 92,682 military and police personnel deployed to peacekeeping operations as at 31 December 2017, 4,275 (4.6 per cent) were women.

6. Furthermore, the Secretary-General indicates that sample countries noted having incurred costs associated with post-deployment medical examinations and procedures that were specific to service in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including psychological examinations, tests and counselling. He adds that the General Assembly may wish to consider including peacekeeping-specific post-deployment medical expenses in future survey exercises (ibid., para. 42).

7. The recommendations of the Secretary-General are set out in paragraph 60 of his report (A/72/728). The General Assembly is requested to review the rate of reimbursement to countries contributing uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the above-mentioned actions constitute policy matters to be decided by the General Assembly.**

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[1] The Senior Advisory Group recommended that data should be collected from 10 countries to be drawn from the top 20 police- and troop-contributing countries, which should collectively account for a minimum of 50 per cent of total troops and police deployed over the three years prior to the survey. The sample 10 should include countries drawn from four income categories, in proportion to the total number of troops and formed police units coming from countries in each of the income categories (high, high-medium, low-medium and low, based on World Bank data and classification) (A/C.5/67/10, annex, paras. 62 and 109 (b)).

[2] The Senior Advisory Group recommended that data should be collected on the common and essential additional costs incurred by contributing countries in deploying their forces to United Nations peacekeeping missions. Specifically, cost information would be collected on: allowances; clothing, gear and equipment; predeployment medical expenses; inland travel; and delivery of United Nations-mandated training (ibid., para. 109 (a)).